

The Member then laid much stress on the teaching of Arabic to Mahomedan pupils, as that was the very foundation of their education. He referred to the G. O. *re. Mahomedan education* issued in 1919, and prayed that all the concessions announced in that G.O. might be given effect to promptly. The Member referred to the discussion in the Legislative Council on the principle of fee concessions and feared that, in the light of the remarks made, it was likely that the Government might go back on the Mahomedan G. O. He, therefore, requested that any further steps that might be taken might not prejudice their interests in the matter of education or affect the fee and other concessions granted to them already. His next prayer was that the number and amount of scholarships for Mahomedan pupils might be increased. The Member also requested that Form VI might be opened in the Mahomedan High school at Alleppy immediately and that provision be made for the study of science in that school. The Member represented, in conclusion, that primary education should be made compulsory among Mahomedans.

President's reply.—Your representation that *Barawafat* should be declared a public holiday for the State will be considered.

As regards the *wakf* Act, I may point out that, though it has been passed in Northern India, it has not been accepted in Madras. Your request relating to the matter is noted.

As regards the continuance of half-fee concessions to Mahomedans, your representation will be carefully considered when Government pass final orders on the subject of fee-concessions now under reconsideration.

Your suggestions as regards increasing the number and amount of scholarships will be considered at the time the report of the Scholarships Committee is taken up.

As regards the opening of Form VI in the Mahomedan School, Alleppey, Government will consider the matter. The Inspector states that it is only a week since his office received a representation on the subject from the Mahomedan public of Alleppey. There are only 15 students in Form V and the strength of Form VI would be still less.

As regards compulsory education for Mahomedans, as I have already stated, the policy of Government is not the introduction of compulsion in respect of education. Your suggestions are, however, noted.

Your representation as regards special privileges being granted to Mahomedans in the matter of admission in the public service is also noted.

As regards the site for the Mahomedan College at Alwaye, at first you were not very enthusiastic about it. Since you appear to be keen about it now, Government will consider your suggestions.

Government will write to the Director of Public Instruction about your suggestion for teaching Koran during school hours.

Government will also consider your suggestion regarding the award of grants to Koran teachers even in schools which contain only 16 Mahomedan pupils.

As regards the site for the Tiruvankod school, a reference had to be made to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil and his opinion has been now received. The matter will be decided shortly.

With regard to the question of establishing a school at Chirayinkil, the Director informs me that, when the leading Mahomedan gentlemen of the locality were addressed on the subject, there was no response from them. Further enquiries will be now made and the matter disposed of as early as practicable.

The Government wrote to the High Court about your objection to the Koran being kept in courts. The High Court have replied that such of the Mahomedans as have objection to swear by the Koran may solemnly or even simply affirm, and that the Koran has to be kept in courts for the sake of those who wish to swear by it.

VII EDUCATION—(Concluded)

137. Educational concessions to Mahomedans.

Mr. Nagur. Miran Miranan Miran Rowther (Member, Nominated) conveyed the gratitude of the Mahomedan community for the concessions already granted to them in the sphere of education. He then spoke about the changes effected in the outlook of the community by education. It had however to be stated that the community had not

yet derived the full benefit of education. The Member, therefore, requested that the following further steps might be taken by the Government with a view to spread education among them—

- (1) to afford greater help for higher education to poor Mahomedan students full remission of fees ;
- (2) to give appointments in Government service to qualified Mahomedan youths and also award them foreign scholarships for scientific studies ;
- (3) to make primary education compulsory among Mahomedans ;
- (4) to award increased grants to Arabic Munshies at the rate of Rs. 7½, as in the case of other grant-in-aid primary school teachers ;
- (5) to issue stringent instructions for the orders issued by the Government for the employment of Mahomedans in the public service being given full effect to ;
- (6) to appoint Tamil Munshies in places like Pattanamtitta where there was a large number of Tamil-speaking pupils ; and
- (7) to complete the High School building begun by the people at Pattanamtitta and convert the local English Middle School into a High School, as the people interested were too poor to complete that building.

President's reply.—Your suggestion that Mahomedan students be given special scholarships and sent to England for study is noted.

Government will address the Director of Public Instruction as regards your suggestion for raising the grant given to Arabic Munshies in aided schools from Rs. 6 to Rs. 7-8-0 and for appointing a Tamil Munshi at Pattanamtitta.

As regards the half-built High School building at Pattanamtitta the Chief Engineer has sent in a report to Government. This will be examined and orders passed.

Your other suggestions are not different from some of those to which I have already replied.

138. Further educational concessions to Pulayas.

Mr. Aiyar Kali (Member, Nominated) represented that the advantages of the fee-concessions granted to the members of his community were being only slowly appreciated by them. There was a decline in the number of the pupils of his community in English Schools while there was an increase in vernacular schools. The Member also represented that one of the difficulties of the pupils of his community was that they had no noon-day meal. Pulaya and Paraya boys were being sent to schools without morning meal and it was hard that they should be compelled to study without noon-day meal also. So he prayed that the children of those two communities be provided with noon-day meal. One chackram or half a *nali* of rice for each pupil per day would be sufficient. Unless such a concession was granted, the benefit intended to be conferred by the grant of fee-concessions could not be fully availed of. Progress in the primary grade where, no doubt, education was free was the basis of further studies. The Member, therefore, requested that it might be made compulsory in the case of Pulayas. He also prayed that some men belonging to his community might be appointed peons and given other menial posts.

President's reply.—Government will consider your suggestions relating to the compulsory education of Hindu Pulayas and the free supply of noon-day meal every day at a chackram per head.

139. Suggestions for the educational advancement of the Cheramar community.

Mr. N. J. Joseph (Member, Nominated) represented first that full-fee concession be given to Cheramar students in colleges and technical schools—both Government and private. He next requested that five special scholarships might be awarded to Cheramars for each taluk of the value of Rs. 7 each for school study and 3 scholarships for each Division of the value of Rs. 15 each for collegiate study. The third request of the Member was that Cheramars be exempted